



Photo by Robert Knudsen  
ight, Horace R.  
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## TI: Leave In-Flight Smoking To Airlines

WASHINGTON, D.C.—It is time for the government to “get out of the business of regulating smoking aboard airplanes,” The Tobacco Institute said in a recent filing at the Civil Aeronautics Board.

This matter, TI said, like other questions of passenger comfort, should be left to the business judgment of the airlines.

The Institute's filing is in answer to a notice of proposed rulemaking by the CAB. The Board asked for public comment on whether it should ban smoking entirely on commercial aircraft or eliminate all CAB regulation of in-flight smoking, thus allowing the airlines freedom to set procedures.

Later this year the CAB is expected to consider this topic further. It doesn't have to accept either of the suggestions it asked for comments on. Rather, it could maintain the status quo or it could make less sweeping changes than a complete ban.

TI said the proposal to ban smoking aboard commercial aircraft must be rejected. Such a ban, TI said, “would deny smoking passengers their statutorily guaranteed right to travel in comfort.”

“The assertion,” TI said, “that non-smokers have special ‘rights’ that can support a total ban on smoking is untenable.”

TI pointed out in its filing that complaints about smoking on airlines last year were down more than 35 percent from 1979.

### Congressional Mandate

TI said that there is a strong Congressional mandate for deregulation of the airlines.

### SMOKING & AIRLINES

The question of smoking aboard aircraft should be handled by the “business judgment of airline management, acting in response to competitive market forces,” TI said.

“The CAB smoking regulations are an unnecessary impediment to competition among the airlines,” The Institute said.

“Airline managers can be counted on to do what their passengers want. If they do not, they will lose business to their competitors.”

## Conn. Official Important Crimes First

DANBURY, Conn.—Citing the need to spend resources on important crimes, the state's attorney here has decided not to prosecute violators of the state's public smoking restriction law.

State's attorney Walter D. Flanagan, in a letter to the local police chief, wrote: “After evaluating priorities, including but not limited to cost feasibility, court facilities, and manpower limitations, this office henceforth will decline prosecution of any summons” under the smoking restriction statute.

The police chief, Nelson F. Macedo, had earlier begun a crackdown on alleged violators. He was hailed by anti-smokers in the state for the first “organized effort” to enforce the smoking ban.

The 1979 Connecticut law restricts smoking in government buildings, retail food stores, and larger restaurants. Violators can be fined no more than \$5. Three Danbury grocery stores had received tickets.

Flanagan told The Tobacco Observer that although his office had not made a formal study of the impact of prose-

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